

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0590

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR CY TU

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

1. SUMMARY: TURK CYPRIOTS REACT SHARPLY TO ARMS CUTOFF; CALL FOR UNILATERAL DECLARATIPF OF INDEPENDENCE. CENTRAL BANK FOR TURKISH AREA ESTABLISHED; USE OF LIRA INTENSIFIED. ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION; GREEK FACTORIES REACTIVATED; EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE BEGINS. NEW "CITIZENSHIP LAW" APPARENTLY EFFORT TO AUGMENT POPULATION, WHICH TURNING OUT LESS THAN ANTICIPATED. IMMIGRATION FROM MAINLAND MAY FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. TURK CYPriot PRESS FOR PAST FIVE DAYS HAS BEEN FILLED WITH ANTI-AMERICAN FULMINATIONS AS RESULT AID CUTOFF TO TURKEY. TYPICAL OF THIS WAS TURK CYPriot LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S FEBRUARY 8 ADVOCACY OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR NORTHERN CYPRUS. MOVE WAS NOT RESULT OF
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FORMAL VOTE AND IS NOT BINDING ON EXECUTIVE. NEVERTHE-

LESS, IT IS INDICATIVE OF COMMUNITY'S MOOD. EVEN ANTI-DENKTASH HALKIN SESI EDITORIALIZED IN FAVOR OF EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF "TURKISH WING OF THE FEDERAL CYPRIOT STATE." U.S. CONGRGISIONALLACTION GENERALLY DEPICTED AS PRO-GREEK AND UNHELPFUL TO FINDING SOLUTION FOR CYPRUS PROBLEM. ALL PAPERS QUESTION MEANINGFULLNESS OF U.S. TREATY COMMITMENTS.

3. IN FINANCIAL AREA, ON FEBRUARY 6 MAINLAND TURKISH AGRICULTURAL BANK FORMALLY ASSUMED ROLE OF TURK CYPRIOT CENTRAL BANK. BANK HAS BEEN CARRYING OUT THIS FUNCTION INFORMALLY SINCE SUMMER. ALSO, TURKISH ARMY IN CYPRUS WILL NOW RECEIVE ALL SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES IN TURKISH LIRA.

4. IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTOR, TURK CYPRIOTS HAVE ANNOUNCED CONSTRUCTION OF 30,000 KW ELECTRICAL GENERATING PLANT AT DHIKOMO. AT PRESENT, ALL POWER BEING DRAWN FROM GREEK SOURCES WITHOUT COMPENSATION. PLANT SCHEDULED GO ON-LINE IN MAY. IN ADDITION, AT LEAST TEN FORMERYY GREEK INDUSTRIES HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED UNDER MAINLAND TURKISH MANAGEMENT. THESE INCLUDE SIX CITRUS PACKING PLANTS IN MORPHOU AND FAMAGUSTA, ONE JUICE EXTRACTOR, AND SMITH FOOD GROUP FACTORY OUTSIDE FAMAGUSTA. TURK CYPRIOTS CLAIM TO HAVE EXPORTED MORE THAN 39,000 TONS OF AGRICULTURALLY RELATED PRODUCE.

5. IN LEGAL FIELD, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 7 PASSED BILL GRANTING "CITIZENSHIP" TO MEMBERS OF TURKISH ARMY WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS SUMMER'S OPERATIONS AND TO RELATIVES OF THOSE KILLED IN BATTLE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT OTHER CLAUSES WOULD EXTEND TURK CYPRIOT CITIZENSHIP TO ANYONE HAVING ONE TURKISH CYPRIOT GRANDPARENT. GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE REACTED STRONGLY TO PROVISION GRANTING CITIZENSHIP TO "TURKISH INVADERS" AND MEMBERS "TERRORIST T.M.T." CYPRUS AMB ROSSIDES RAISED WITH UNSYG; FORMIN DISCUSSED WITH DCM AND OTHER EMBASSIES HERE.

6. CITIZENSHIP BILL PROBABLY RELATED TO RECENT CENSUS, FIGURES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN RELEASED. HOWEVER, ADMIN-CONFIDENTIAL

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ISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT 57,200 TURK CYPRIOTS OVER AGE 15 HAVE APPLIED FOR I.D. CARDS. EXTRAPOLATING FROM 1960 CENSUS DATA, THIS WOULD INDICATE A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 96,000 TURK CYPRIOTS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS. SINCE NUMBER REMAINING IN SOUTH UNLIKELY EXCEED 7,000, GRAND TOTAL OF NUMBER TURKS ON ISLAND WOULD SEEM TO BE AROUND 103,000 --- CERTAINLY TOO LOW A FIGURE TO EXPLOIT RESOURCES IN AREA UNDER TURKISH CONTROL.

7. RELATIVELY SLOW PACE OF RESETTLEMENT, CONTINUED ECONOMIC STAGNATION, SECRECY SURROUNDING CENSUS, AND CITIZENSHIP LAW MAY WELL BE RELATED. TRANSFER OF WSBA REFUGEES FROM ISKENDERUN TO ISLAND DUE BE COMPLETED WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12. AFTER THAT DATE IT WILL BE APPARENT HOW FEW TURK CYPRIOTS THERE ARE HERE. QEOM EMBOFF TRIPS ACROSS NORTHERN CYPRUS IT CLEAR THAT EVEN AFTER ALL SOUTHERN TURKS TRANSFERRED NORTH THERE WILL BE MANY EMPTY VILLAGES AND MUCH UNTILLED LAND. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PROCLAMATION OF INDEPENDENCE MAY BE GEARED TO DELAYING FINAL SETTLEMENT LONG ENOUGH TO PERMIT SUFFICIENT IMMIGRATION OF RE-NATURALIZED CYPRIOTS TO ENABLE TURKS TO HOLD ON TO MOST OF TERRITORY SEIZED BY THEIR ARMY LAST SUMMER.
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